BPL category in the matter of execution of welfare schemes as it is in the case of SC/ST people, if not, will the Government consider the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): No, Sir. The poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are being implemented to improve the economic condition and quality of life of the rural poor. These programmes are open for all the rural BPL families, however, preference is given to the SCs/STs and other weaker sections of the society who are comparatively more vulnerable.

Incentives to growers of bio-diesel plants

2497. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption"Power Ministry Mails Sugarcane approach" for bio-diesel which appeared in Media;

(b) if so, what incentive Government propose to offer to the growers of bio-diesel plants and by when such incentives are likely to be announced; and

(c) if the answer to part(b) above is in negative, what are reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) The news item referred to in the question appeared in The Statesman dated 5th September, 2004. This approach advocates growing of bio-diesel plants in advance before the required processing facilities are set up. For promotion of bio-diesel production, Jatropha curcas has been identitied as a suitable plant for extensive cultivation. However, since this plant is a new introduction in the country and has no history of cultivation as a mono-crop and relevant data base on varieties, aronomic practices, productivity etc. is presently lacking, the Ministry of Rural Development has submitted a Detailed project Report (DPR) for approval of the Planning Commission to launch a demonstration project, under which Jatropha cultivation would be taken up on 4 lakh hectares in various States, primarily on degraded forest lands and Panchayat/community wastelands. If this demonstration project proves successful, Jatropha plantation would be taken up on a large

scale on private lands also at a later date. The desirability of providing suitable incentives to private growers of Jatropha would be considered at that time.

Roads in Bihar under PMGSY

†2498. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be spent on the constructions of roads in Bihar during the current financial year under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the district-wise details thereof;

(b) the names of roads included in this scheme for construction in Buxar district, their total length and the total amount to be spent on them;

(c) the procedures for monitoring the proper use of allocated amount; and

(d) the details of progress made in Bihar particularly Buxar regarding linking the villages, having more than one thousands population, with roads as conceived in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The annual allocation during the current financial year (2005-06) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for Bihar is Rs. 332.00 crores. The allocation for Buxar district for the current year is Rs. 14.66 crore. Three projects of road works valued at Rs. 3.27 crores covering a length of 13.81 Kms. have been cleared by Ministry of Rural Development to be implemented by the Nominated Executing Agency M/s National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. (NPCC). The district-wise details of allocation and the details of PMGSY road works in respect of Buxar district is given in Statement-I & II (*See* below).

'Rural Roads' being a State subject, the implementation of the Programme is done by the State Government. Since the progress of work in Phase I &II was hampered by the constraints of executional capacity, the Ministry of Rural Development agreed to the engagement of Central Agencies for the execution of the work of Phase III (2003-04)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.